

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: EARLY SPANISH REACTION IN THE PRESS TO PRIME MINISTER
ARIAS SPEECH TO CORTES ON NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM

1. ALL MAJOR DAILIES RECOGNIZED THAT THE SPEECH COULD NOT,
INEVITABLY, PLEASE EVERYONE. ALL, NEVERTHELESS, PASSED
PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT.

2. "ABE" (MONARCHIST) APPEARED THE MOST SATISFIED. IT
TERMED THE PROGRAM PRESENTED AS "RATIONL AND POSSIBLE,"
AND SAID THE TWO KEY CONCEPTS OF THE SPEECH WERE THAT SPAIN
WAS NOT IN ANY CONSTITUENT PERIOD WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A
SHARP BREAK (A "RUPTURE") WITH THE FORTY YEARS OF PEACE
OF THE FRANCOIST PAST AND, SECOND, THAT IT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY
NECESSARY THAT AN " URGENT AND PROFOUND EVOLUTION TOWARDS
A MORE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF STATE" BE PUT IN MOTION SO THAT,
WITHIN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME, SPAIN WOULD BECOME A NATION
SIMILAR TO THE DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST. IT POINTED OUT
SPECIFICALLY THAT, WHILE ANARCHISM, SEPARATISM AND
COMMUNISM HAD BEEN EXPRESSLY PROSCRIBED, EQUAL EMPHASIS
HAD PLACED ON RESTRUCTURING CIVIL LIBERTIES
INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATION, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION
AND ON OPENING UP NEW BASES FOR PARTICIPATION.

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3. "ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) WAS CAUTIOUS. ITS LEAD COLUMN

REMARKED THAT IF THIS SPEECH HAD BEEN MADE FOUR MONTHS AGO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS DANGEROUSLY REVOLUTIONARY. BUT NOW IT WELCOMED ARIAS' CONDEMNATION OF ANY INTERFERENCE BY "INTERESTED INTERMEDIARIES" IN THE REFORM PROCESS AND IT CALLED FOR "DIRECT CONSULTATIONS" (EVIDENTLY REFERENDUMS) WITH THE PEOPLE ON THE MAJOR REFORMS IN ORDER PRECISELY TO ELIMINATE THIS MIDDLE MAN INTERFERENCE BY POLITICAL PARTIES. AN INSIDE EDITORIAL SAID THE REFORMS PROPOSED "ENCOMPASSED THE TOTALITY OF THE RATIONAL AND POSSIBLE DEMANDS OF A SOCIETY IN CHANGE" AND THAT WITH THIS PROGRAM THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF THE CHANGE" COULD BEGIN THE PATH OF "ACCOMMODATION TO THE SOCIAL REALITY AND TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION ARE TO BE FOUND," THOUGH IT ENCOURAGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PRESS FORWARD WITH ITS REFORMS (INCLUDING THE MEANS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION "WHETHER THESE MEANS ARE CALLED PARTIES OR NOT"). IT WARNED FINALLY THAT THE "FUTURE IS CALLED SPAIN AND NOT FACTION."

4. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) WAS DISSATISFIED, BUT RESIGNED. IT NOTED THAT, THOUGH THE GREAT EXPECTATION WITH WHICH THE SPEECH HAD BEEN AWAITED HAD CREATED MUCH DIFFICULTY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO BLAME DUE TO ITS DELAY. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROGRAM DID MAINTAIN A "REFORMIST CHARACTER", AND TO HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC WOULD HAVE BEEN TO GIVE THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CORTES WHO OPPOSE REFORM. "YA NOTED THE PROGRATION OF THE CORTES PROVIDED THE TIMETABLE FOR REFORM LUIS APOSTU'S COMMENTARY WAS MORE POINTED, SAYING THAT THE SPEECH HAD BEEN TOO OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND THAT IT RAISED MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERED. HE SIGNED OUT ARIAS RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO REFORM THE ASSOCIATION SCHEMA AND TO ELIMINATE PENALTIES FOR PURELY POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND THEN POINTED OUT THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THAT RECOGNITION AND ARIAS' EARLIER PAEAN TO THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AS THE ENCOMPASSING BODY FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY. APOSTUA FELT THAT THIS TRIMMING HAD PRODUCED A MUDDIED TEXT, DIFFICULT OF COMPREHENSION.

5. ADDITIONALLY, ALL PAPERS CARRIED LIMITED POLLS OF CORTES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS, IN GENERAL, REFLECTING THE CONSERVATIVE MAKE-UP OF THE CORTES, THE RESPONSE WAS APPROVING IF ALSO RESERVED. THE "BUNKER" IN THE PERSON OF RAIMUNDO FERNANDEZ CUESTA, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, APPLAUDED THE AFFIRMATIONS OF AUTHORITY, NATIONAL UNITY, THE PRICIPLES OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND THE WORK OF FRANCO. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE REFERENCE TO THE

REFORM OF THE ASSOCIATION SCHEMA, ADDING THAT IF THIS
REFORM MEANT INTRODUCING POLITICAL PARTIES THIS WAS
IRRECONCILABLE WITH THE JUST REAFFIRMED PRINCIPLES OF THE
NATIONAL MOVEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, CORTES MEMBERS OF THE
APERTURISTA "GRUPO PARLIAMENTARIO" HIT UPON THE
SPEECH'S INADEQUACIES, CALLING IT "RETROGRESSIVE," "EVASIVE",
"DIFFUSE AND IMPRECISE", AND RELYING TOO MUCH ON CONCEPTS,
SUCH AS ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH HAD ALREADY PROVEN FAILURES.
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